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Dimitrov Youth League

Novo Vreme, Sofia, #3, March 1951

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THE DIMITROV YOUTH LEAGUE IN BULGARIA

The Dimitrov Youth League in Bulgaria, as the direct successor and heir to the revolutionary traditions of the former Bulgarian Communist Youth Union (BKMS) and the Workers' Youth Union (RMS), plays the part of the Komsomol in Bulgaria under the regime of the People's democracy, which is a form of dictatorship of the proletariat. "Between the Dimitrov Youth League and the Komsomol," says Comrade V. Chervenkov, "there does not exist and cannot exist any difference in principle." The Dimitrov Youth League is an adjunct and a reserve of the BCP (Bulgarian Communist Party) and performs all its activity under the latter's guidance.

The BCP constantly supervises and guides the activities of the Dimitrov Youth League and extends to it all the assistance necessary for eliminating defects in its activities. Not a single event in the life of the Youth League occurs without the knowledge of the CC (Central Committee) of the BCP. Problems related to League activity have been discussed many a time at the plenary sessions, conferences, and congresses of the Party.

The Dimitrov Youth League has at present a great influence over Bulgarian youth. More than 730,000 boys and girls are members of the league. As an organizer of the labor of youth, the League won the love of the nation and the reputation of a staunch fighter for building Socialism in Bulgaria. The Dimitrov Youth League has also attained considerable success in the Communist education of the younger generation. Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls diligently master the great and invincible science of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. These youths increase their culture and prepare for work, as well as for the defense of their country.

The Dimitrov Youth League learns from the examples provided by the rich experiences of the Leninist-Stalinist Komsomol. Dim-

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itrov's youth imitates the Komsomol carrying on the work of Lenin and Stalin for the achievement of a Communist victory.

The Dimitrov Youth League is a loyal and close assistant of the BCP and is learning from the latter's rich revolutionary experience. It does not have and cannot have any interests other than the welfare of the BCP. The League strives to educate true young patriots who are loyal till death to the BCP and to their own people and who love their country.

Before the Eighth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Dimitrov Youth League, Vulko Chervenkov described in detail the character of the League and its place in Bulgaria. He said, "The Dimitrov Youth League is a mass organization of worker and peasant youths, a non-party organization that is yet very close to the Party and has the duty of aiding the Party in educating the young generation in the spirit of Socialism and of training personnel for public organizations and government positions."

The Dimitrov Youth League is a reserve of the BCP. From this League the BCP draws and will continue to draw members who will fill its ranks.

The Dimitrov Youth League is not only a reserve of the BCP, but also a means, or as Comrade Stalin says, a tool and a weapon in the hands of the Party through which it keeps the young masses under its influence.

Through the Dimitrov Youth League the BCP exerts an influence on the youths who are not members of the League.

The role of the League as an auxiliary of the Party manifests itself chiefly in the fact that it mobilizes youth for active participation in building socialism, creates in youth an interest in public political life, educates the young generation in political matters, and acts as an active transmitter of Party directives in all phases of socialist construction.

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The League trains men for all phases of government, economic and cultural life, and is an educational center for the young generation. A large number of Party and government workers, scientists and professors, generals and army officers, writers and painters, all of whom have received their primary education in the various organizations of the League, have emerged from its ranks.

The Party strengthens its own organization ideologically and guides the education of the young members through the League. The Dimitrov Youth League is bound to the Party by indissoluble ideological ties, and all its activities are directed by the Party.

The members of the League consider it a duty and an honor to join the ranks of the BCP. To infuse the members of the League with boundless love, devotion, and loyalty to the BCP is one of the main objectives of the Dimitrov Youth League.

The will of the Party is law for the young Dimitrov generation. The League knows no other sacred duty than carrying out the Party's instructions and implementing Party policy among young people. In Party resolutions and directives, the League sees the expression of Leninist-Stalinist policy and the Bolshevik wisdom which inspires the working people and the young generation in the struggle for peace and socialism. The Dimitrov Youth League (just like the Komsomol and the Workers' Youth Union) has fulfilled honorably the tasks which the BCP has assigned to it.

Immediately after the victory of 9 September 1944, following the Party's slogan of "everything for the front -- everything for victory," members of the RMS began joining the ranks of the troops

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which were fighting in the Fatherland War. More than 40,000 members of RMS left for the front as volunteers. From among its membership, the RMS supplied a large number of deputy political commanding officers for the army. The volunteers from the ranks of RMS wrote brilliant pages in the history of the Fatherland War. A large number of soldiers and officers who were awarded high orders and medals were members of RMS.

During the years of establishing and consolidating the power of the Fatherland Front, the youth of Bulgaria guided and inspired by Dimitrov's Party, took an active part in rebuilding the country. On instructions from the Party and following the example of the Leninist-Stalinist Komsomol, the Dimitrov Youth League mobilized young people for socialist competition; first, in the fulfillment of Bulgaria's Two-Year Plan and later in the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan for industry, transportation, and agriculture. The youth construction brigades, especially, were instrumental in reestablishing and strengthening the national economy. During a period of 5 years, more than 500,000 young people volunteered one month or 2 months of labor without pay for their country. Under the care of the Party, new men were formed in the ranks of the Dimitrov Youth League, men with a new socialist attitude towards labor and public property, innovators in industry and agriculture, and fighters for high labor productivity and large yields in agriculture.

The League educated such famous shock workers as the Dimitrov Prize winners, Lilyana Dimitrova, Gitsa Andreeva, Anka Petrova, Nakhida Abdulova, Bozhana Zlatanova and others who fulfilled their five-year plans and are now working on the fulfillment of the Second Five-Year Plan. Yordan Velinov, Lozan Stanimirov (an expert metal cutter), and the miner Nikola Ganchev from the "Brigadir" pit

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must be added to the above list.

The League also educated a large number of outstanding farm workers. The groups of Marin Angelov at Bogdan in Karlovo Okoliya, Gancho Georgiev at Vezenkovo in Kotel Okoliya, Stancho Nikolov at Yagodovo in Asenovgrad Okoliya, and Peshka Rangelova at Komoshtitsa in Lom Okoliya, and others were awarded Dimitrov Prizes and became examples for all young working people in the struggle for high yields.

In its address to the Second Congress of the Dimitrov Youth League, the CC of the BCP assigned large and responsible tasks to the League in building Socialism and in the Communist education of youth.

In response to the appeal of the members of cooperative in Lom Okoliya an extensive struggle for high yields in agriculture has begun throughout Bulgaria.

The goals of the Dimitrov Youth League in the village must be: to mobilize all its members and all young working people in consolidating and expanding farm workers' cooperatives, state farms, and machine-tractor stations; to educate young people in guarding and cultivating state and cooperative land as responsible citizens of the state; to organize the study and application of all new agricultural methods, which contribute toward higher yields; to aid the Party and the People's government in developing collective cattle breeding and increasing the number of cattle and their productivity; to take an active part in the fulfillment of state plans for the compulsory delivery of agricultural products; and to learn even more diligently from the experience and the achievements of Soviet agriculture, as well as from the experience of the Leninist-Stalinist Komsomol.

Under the guidance of the Party, the Dimitrov Youth League educates youths who are faithful till death to the building of

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socialism. Such youths include Comrade Zhelyu Vulkanov of Granichar, Michurin Okoliya, Aleksii Nikolov of Igralishte, Sandanski Okoliya, and others who helped apprehend spies and bandits, who were trying to violate the integrity of the Bulgarian borders.

The organizations of the League in the army, following the example of the Komsomol in the Soviet army, spare no efforts in helping the commanding personnel and the Party to train soldiers in the mastery of Stalinist military science. They organize competitions among the soldiers during target practice in which Comrade Yordan Nikolov, Nikola Kovachev, and other members of the League have excelled.

Some of the best athletes, champions of the Republic in a number of sports, such as Dimitur Drazhev, Georgi Dimitrov, Angel Kolev, Tsvetana Berkovska, and others are members of the Dimitrov Youth League.

The Dimitrov Youth League assists the Party in the Communist education of the young generation.

The building of socialism requires not only the transformation and development of the economic structure, but also a systematic education of the working people in the spirit of Communism. For that reason, the primary objective assigned to the League by the Party is the following: to educate young people along Communist lines by engaging them in the practical activities of daily life, as well as by engaging them in socialist construction and in the public political life of the country. With that end in view they must study the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and master science and culture.

The speeches of Vladimir Ilich Lenin before the Third Congress of the Komsomol and of Comrade Stalin before the Eighth Congress of the VLKSM are included in the Communist education program

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of Bulgarian youth.

The education of the young generation in the spirit of Communism is realized in the primary and advanced schools of Bulgaria under the guidance of the BCP. It is also furthered by the press, literature and art, scientific and cultural institutions, and by public organizations. The Party has assigned a large and important role to the League in educating young people. The League is one of the first stages in the adult life of youth. Membership in the League corresponds with the period in the life of man when his outlook on life is formed and his character is shaped. The Dimitrov Youth League must educate young people politically, form in them the Marxist-Leninist outlook and a bolshevist character, and prepare boys and girls for an independent life and a struggle for the prosperity of their Socialist country.

The Party provides the League with an extensive program and excellent possibilities for educating young builders of socialism. Thanks to the CC of the BCP, the entire activity of the League is directed towards the formation of a young generation which is highly idealistic, courageous, confident in its force, and fearless of difficulties -- a generation which fights for the freedom and independence of the Bulgarian Republic and for the cause of Lenin and Stalin. The Dimitrov Youth League educates youth in the spirit of socialist patriotism and in the spirit of boundless love and devotion to Bulgaria, to the BCP, and to Comrade Vulko Chervenkov. The Dimitrov Youth League instills in boys and girls an ineradicable hatred for the class enemies of the working people and for the traitors of the country. It fights relentlessly against bourgeois nationalism and its supporters in Bulgaria, followers of Traycho Kostov.

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The Dimitrov Youth League educates youth in the spirit of Socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism, in the spirit of unbounded devotion and love for the great Soviet Union, for the Communist Party and for Stalin.

Arming youths with the ideas of Lenin and Stalin, the BCP helps it to become a conscientious builder of a Socialist society. Every member of the League is required to increase his political knowledge, study the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism, and explain the policy of the BCP to the great masses of young people. With this purpose in mind, the organizations of the Dimitrov Youth League create political study centers and political schools, organize lectures and conferences, and make sure that the histories of the Bolshevik party and of the BCP, as well as the biographies of Lenin, Stalin, and Dimitrov are taught.

With the assistance of the Party and on the basis of the experience of the Leninist-Stalinist Komsomol, the Fifth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Dimitrov Youth League decided to introduce a system of political education for young people in schools. Under the guidance of the Party, the League conducted large-scale preparatory work for the second school year of Party education. The League has set up more than 25,600 centers for political education, which are attended by more than 330,000 boys and girls. This means that more than 50 percent of the members of the League are included in the system of political education.

The Second Congress of the Dimitrov Youth League, which discussed the success of the League in increasing political knowledge and the ideological conviction of League members and nonmembers, pointed out that the main defect of political education among young people is their inadequate ideological and theoretical

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knowledge, as well as the unsatisfactory quality of instruction.

In several localities political education is conducted without considering problems related to the international situation or the building of socialism in Bulgaria. Instruction in a large number of study centers, political schools, and seminars is exceedingly formalistic and superficial. Many boys and girls who attend centers for political education do not receive profound and lasting knowledge.

The Congress pointed out that the League neither strives sufficiently to overcome the influence of the decadent bourgeois culture on the young people, nor does it make adequate efforts to instill in the young the revolutionary virtues of Dimitrov. The address of the CC of the BCP emphasized that the League must exert a greater effort to educate within its ranks fighters who are highly conscientious, irreconcilably opposed to the enemy, as well as fearless and confident in their strength, as they fight for the freedom and the honor of Bulgaria, for the cause of the Communist Party, and for the victory of Socialism.

Physical education is one of the main elements in the Communist education of youth. The Party teaches the Dimitrov Youth League to instill in young people the desire to fight the enemies of peace and socialism. The League can achieve this not only through ideological and political training, but also through regular physical and military training of boys and girls. The League pays special attention to the physical training of young people. It aids the teachers in physical education and provides facilities not only for such training, but also for sports and technical instruction.

The BCP and the People's government create and will continue to create advantageous conditions for the development of science.

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While the 1944 budget of the fascist regime in Bulgaria allowed only 2,203,100,000 leva for education (including university education), the 1951 budget of the people's democratic Bulgaria has allotted 16,400,000,000 leva for the same purpose. From 7,700 [In 1944?] the number of primary schools in the country has increased to 8,361 with 864,446 students [In 1951?]. The number of general purpose Gymnasiums has increased from 134 to 213. As many as 100,000 young Turks study in their mother tongue in 1,999 Turkish schools. Following the example of the Soviet-type school, 145 integrated schools have been opened in Bulgaria.

Under the guidance of the Party, the Dimitrov Youth League takes an active part in strengthening the People's schools and educating young people.

In its work among students, the League is guided by the following advice of Comrade Georgi Dimitrov: "The students, boys and girls, should grow up as one with the life and progress of their people, strong and physically fit, with a broad culture and wide knowledge, capable and ready to do their share for the transformation of the country."

At the Second Congress of the Dimitrov Youth League it was pointed out that the work of the League in schools lags behind the ever-increasing need in building socialism. The organizations of the Dimitrov Youth League do not induce students sufficiently to put more effort into their studies. The League and the "Septemvriyche" Dimitrov Pioneer Organization in schools do not comply with the educational tasks assigned to them. The work of political education is performed on a low ideological level.

The Party has put the League in charge of guiding the very young members of the "Septemvriyche" Organization and of instilling in them love for their country, for the BCP, and for the work

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of Comrade Dimitrov, as well as of making them into real citizens of their socialist country.

It is necessary that the Dimitrov League and the "Septemvriyche" Dimitrov Pioneer Organization reorganize their activities and comply with the educational requirements of schools so that the recommendation made to Bulgarian youth in the address to the Congress can be carried out. The recommendation in question reads as follows:

"The Dimitrov Youth League must instill in Bulgarian students a high degree of devotion to duty, a love of progressive science and culture, and an unconquerable desire to acquire profound knowledge, thereby improving the scholastic record, strengthening discipline in Bulgarian schools, and training for the Bulgarian economy highly qualified specialists who are firm in their devotion to Socialism."

The BCP has always stressed that, in order to perform their coordinating role, the organizations of the Dimitrov Youth League must be in close contact with the great masses of young people, that they must take into consideration the recommendations and proposals of the young, and that they must learn from them. On many occasions the Party has drawn the attention of the League to certain sectarian manifestations on the part of unorganized youth. The League must always bear in mind that it must extend its influence among the young people of the entire country.

After 9 September 1944, the RMS organization and its successor, the Dimitrov Youth League, accomplished an enormous task in uniting young people around the BCP and its Central Committee.

The Party put the former RMS organization in charge of uniting all the young working people for the purpose of building socialism in Bulgaria.

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Even before 9 September 1944, on instructions from the Party, the former RMS organization began to form Fatherland Front youth commissions with individual members of the Agrarian Youth League and young Socialists.

After 9 September 1944, under the direct guidance of the Party, the former RMS organization performed useful work through the Fatherland Front youth commissions and later through democratic youth committees by uniting the great masses of young people under the leadership of the Party. In spite of the rabid efforts of bourgeois reactionaries to oppose the former RMS organization, some of the young people of the country organized the Agrarian Youth League, the Peasant Students' League, the "Zveno" National Youth League, and the young radicals.

Under the guidance of the Party, the Dimitrov Youth League initiated and successfully formed a single organization at high schools and universities, in EMOS and OSNS, and expanded its activities in the Fatherland Youth commissions.

In the autumn of 1947, after the conclusions of the conventions of the former RMS organization and the Agrarian Youth League, a general meeting of the delegates to these two conventions was organized in the National Theatre by the BCP. This meeting was attended also by the leaders of the Fatherland youth organizations. The delegates voted in favor of forming a single League of the People's youth of Bulgaria.

The fundamental problems of the youth movement in Bulgaria was solved when this single League of the People's youth, whose objective is to aid the Party in the socialist education of young people was formed. The unity of progressive young Bulgarians under the direction of the Party was thus completely realized.

The successes of the League in the unification of young

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people around the Party do not signify in any way that the goal has been attained.

There are still sectarian manifestations in the League. The okrug committee of the League at Ruse contended for some time that middle-class peasant youths must not be accepted in the League and demanded that members of the League administrations in village soviets present certificates of property ownership.

The sectarian actions and perversions of the okrug committee of the League at Ruse have been known by the Party Okrug Committee, but it has not taken any measures to remedy the situation. As a result of this attitude, there is a certain shying away from the League on the part of the young people of that Okrug and a large number of them are afraid to take responsible jobs in organizations of the League because of their middle-class origin. As a result of this attitude toward middle-class youths, only 38,853 boys and girls in that Okrug are members of the League and more than 36,000 young people remain outside its ranks.

The sectarian manifestations were especially prominent during the discussions of the project for amending and supplementing the Statute of the League. The CC of the League has received a number of sectarian proposals for reenrollment of members, for dropping 30 percent of them, and for introducing candidate apprenticeship and political examinations.

All this merely shows that very energetic measures should be taken to uproot the last remnants of sectarianism in the organizations of the League.

The Congress appealed to the League and all its members to rise up and start a campaign in compliance with Vulko Chervenkov's instructions to enroll in the Dimitrov Youth League two-tenths of

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the working youth and all of the children of workers.

The organizations of the League must wage a battle to win every young worker and every working youth in the village. They should not wait for the young people to come to them with completed membership petitions. It is necessary that every honest young person be approached by the organizations of the League, that the objectives and the goals of the League be explained to him, and that he be drawn into the ranks of the League.

The administration and all members of the League must not forget that the Dimitrov Youth League, like the Leninist-Stalinist Komsomol, is a school for educating the young. The youths come into the ranks of the League with all the inherited defects of capitalism. The League re-educates them by enlisting them in building Socialism and teaching them Marxism-Leninism.

The formation of the Dimitrov Youth League gave young Bulgarians the opportunity to direct their attention towards the primary objective of the Bulgarian people, which is the building of socialism.

Three years have passed since the formation of the League. At the Fifth Congress of the Party, Comrade Georgi Dimitrov drew the plan for building the economic and cultural foundations of Socialism in Bulgaria on the pattern of the USSR. The objectives set by the Fifth Congress of the Party became the guiding principles of all the various activities of the Dimitrov Youth League. The January, June, and October plenary sessions of the CC of the BCP and those of the Third People's Party Conference drafted concrete measures for the fulfillment of the decisions of the Fifth Congress. The exposure and the destruction of the spies and traitors of Traycho Kostov's group sharpened the revolutionary vigilance of the young and became an actual

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school of thought for its militant patriotic education.

The Second Congress of the Dimitrov Youth League reviewed in detail its activities during the past three years, and pointed out the fundamental tasks which confront the League.

The Congress revealed the growing political consciousness and the increased political activity of Bulgarian Youth. It showed the complete unity and the readiness of youth to build the foundations of Socialism in Bulgaria and to fulfill all tasks that the Party assigns to it.

The following statement, approved by the Second Congress, has been inscribed in the Statute of the Dimitrov Youth League as a basic law: "The Dimitrov Youth League performs all its activity under the direct leadership of the BCP. As an administrative body of the League, its Central Committee is directly subordinate to the CC of the BCP. The activity of okrug, okoliya, municipal rayon, and local organizations of the League is directed and supervised by the respective Party committees and organizations."

The participation of the Dimitrov Youth League in the fulfillment of government tasks shows that those youth organization leaders who give assurance of constant diligence and skill in administrative positions in local Party organizations and committees may become valuable assistants to the Party.

The CC of the BCP is constantly striving towards the betterment of the work in the ranks of the Dimitrov Youth League. A number of resolutions of the CC of the BCP, and especially the resolution of the Politburo of February 1950, contributed to the improvement of organizational and political work in the League.

As a result of measures taken by the CC of the BCP to improve Party leadership in the League, a number of Party committees (the Sofia Municipal Party Committee, the Pleven Okrug Party Com-

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mittee and others) devoted most of their plenary sessions to discussions of Party activities among young people. The Sofia Rayon Party committees have also taken up this problem. At meetings of the basic Party organizations, reports were made on the activities of the Party in the League. This brought about an improvement of local Party leadership and increased Party activity in the League.

The Okoliya Party committee at Karnobat recently organized a conference in connection with fulfilling the Decree of the Council of Ministers and the CC of the BCP on the protection of cattle and the development of cattle breeding. The chairmen of the local committees of the League had also been called to that conference. This has helped to enlighten the young people concerning the tasks which the Okoliya Party committee assigns on the basis of the Decree.

After the conference, the Okoliya committee of the Dimitrov Youth League planned the future work of youths in the Okoliya. The Party committee, on the other hand, increased its direct supervision and assistance to the League. Plant committee members and secretaries have attended sessions of the okrug committees of the League and have called the youth plant committee members and secretaries for consultations in the Party committee. The result of this has been that within 6 days, 124 boys and 56 girls were dispatched to work on livestock farms as cowherds, shepherds, poultry men, etc. Members of the League became leaders of groups which have undertaken the breeding of a total of 12,403 animals.

The situation is not the same everywhere. Some Party organizations and committees do not exercise sufficient control and do not extend the necessary assistance to committees and organizations of the League.

Party organizations must execute the decision of the Politburo

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of the CC of the BCP. The decision states that all Party members up to 23 years of age must be members of and must work in the Dimitrov Youth League. The number of Communists in the League is decidedly inadequate. A very small number of Communists are working in the League as leaders of study centers, political schools, etc. Without their participation there can be no adequate Communist education of young people.

It is incorrect to think that the problem of Communist education can be solved by the efforts of youth organizations alone. Party organizations and committees which do not give guidance and close assistance to the organizations of the League hamper seriously the work among the young people.

Party organizations are required to take a considerable interest in the work of the League. They must direct the work of youth organizations, provide them with constant and systematic assistance, and consider this direction and assistance as an important part of the over-all Party work.

The aid which the CC of the BCP and Comrade V. Chervenkov extend to the Dimitrov Youth League is great. The Party directs the entire activity of the League, unifies its ranks, transmits to it its experience in organizational and political work among the masses, and arms it with Marxist-Leninist science. The Party teaches the Dimitrov Youth League to employ all its efforts, knowledge, and energy for the triumph of the cause of Socialism and of the work of Dimitrov.

The instructions of the BCP are guide lines for the Dimitrov Youth League. By following these instructions, the League has grown and gained strength. It has become an organization of young builders of socialism with thousands of members, as well as a

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shock force which rallies round the BCP, its Central Committee,
and Comrade Chervenkov. It is completely devoted to the cause
of Lenin and Stalin.

Luchezar Avramov

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